

Message Text

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44

ACTION L-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-14 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 NSAE-00

NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 SAM-01 EA-11

OIC-04 DPW-01 ACDA-19 NIC-01 SAJ-01 DRC-01 /141 W

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O 201118Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY VIENNA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1671

USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PARM, PFOR, ICRC, AU

SUBJECT: DIPLOMATIC CONFERENCE OF LAW OF WAR

REF: A. STATE 032618; B. STATE 27026; C. STATE 27778; D.
GENEVA 1013; E. VIENNA 1346

1. AS NOTED REF (E), AMBASSADOR MADE DEMARCHE TO
FONMIN ON FEBRUARY 13 EXPRESSING STRONG USG
OPPOSITION TO INVITATION TO PRG TO CONFERENCE ON
LAW OF WAR. FOREIGN MINISTER RESPONDED GOA WOULD NOT
VOTE IN FAVOR OF INVITATION BUT WAS NON-COMMITTAL
WHETHER AUSTRIANS WOULD ABSTAIN OR VOTE AGAINST
PROPOSAL.

2. RANKING OFFICIALS AUSTRIAN FOREIGN OFFICE UNAVAILABLE FOR
DEMARCHE TODAY (FEBRUARY 20), BEING TIED UP WITH VISIT OF
FRG FOREIGN MINISTER SCHEEL. POLCOUN, THEREFORE, BRIEFLY
DISCUSSED SUBJECT THIS MORNING WITH HEAD FOREIGN OFFICE
POLITICAL DEPARTMENT STEINER JUST PRIOR HIS DEPARTURE
FOR MEETING WITH SCHEEL AND THEN CALLED ON CHEIF INTERNATIONAL
LAW DIVISION NETTEL, MAKING APPROPRIATE POLITICAL AND LEGAL
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ARGUMENTS CONTAINED IN REFS (B) AND (C) AND

STRONGLY URGING GOA TO PUBLICLY OPPOSE INVITATION TO PRG.

3. NETTEL SAID DECISION ON VOTE NOT YET MADE BUT
THAT ON BASIS OF REPORT FROM AUSTRIAN MISSION IN
GENEVA ON LIST OF PROBABLY WEO ABSTENTIONS, AUSTRIA
WOULD IN ALL PROBABILITY ALSO ABSTAIN. HE SPECIFICALLY
NOTED AUSTRALIA AND SWEDEN (SOMETIME BELL WEATHERS FOR AUSTRIA)
AS WELL AS SEVERAL US ALLIES (NETHERLANDS, NORWAY AND TURKEY)
WILL PROBABLY ABSTAIN, IMPLYING THAT MORE SHOULD
NOT BE EXPECTED FROM NEUTRAL AUSTRIA THAN FROM USG'S
ALLIES.HUMES

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